CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A system for processing a document by external processing routines that operate on the document in response to reference links embedded within the document, comprising:

means for acquiring a processing link in the document;

means for using said processing link to invoke a processing engine to modify the document;

means for modifying said document by said processing engine.

2.   The system of claim 1, further comprising:

means for invoking said processing engine using a data list.

3.   The system of claim 2, further comprising:

means for validating said processing link.

4.   The system of claim 3, wherein said validating means further comprises:

means for accessing a local directory to create said data list for said processing link; and

means for accessing a global directory to create said data list for said processing link, if said data list for said processing link is not located in said local directory.

5.   The system of claim 4, wherein said global directory accessing means further comprises:

means for copying said data list for said processing link from said global directory to said local directory if said global directory is used to create said data list.

6.   A method for processing a document by external processing routines that operate on the document in response to reference links embedded within the document, said method comprising steps of:

acquiring a processing link embedded in the document;

using said processing link to invoke a processing engine to modify the document;

modifying said document by said processing engine.

7.   The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

using a data list to invoke said processing engine.

8.   The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:

validating said processing link.

9.   The method of claim 8, wherein said validating step further comprises: the steps of:

accessing a local directory to create said data list for said processing link; and

accessing a global directory to create said data list for said processing link if said data list for said processing link is not located in said local directory.

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10.   The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

copying said data list for said processing link from said global directory to said

local directory if said global directory is used to create said data list.

11.   A computer readable medium for processing a document by external

processing routines that operate on the document in response to reference links

embedded within the document, comprising:

logic for acquiring a processing link in the document;

logic for using said processing link to invoke a processing engine to modify the

document;

logic for modifying said document by said processing engine.

12.   The computer readable medium of claim 11, further comprising:

logic for using a data list to invoke said processing engine.

13.   The computer readable medium of claim 12, further comprising:

logic for validating said processing link.

14.   The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein said logic for

validating further comprises:

logic for accessing a local directory to create said data list for said processing

link; and

logic for accessing a global directory to create said data list for said processing

link if said data list for said processing link is not located in said local directory.

15.   The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein said logic for accessing said global directory further comprises:

logic for copying said data list for said processing link from said global directory to said local directory if said global directory is used to create said data list.

16.   A system for processing a document by external processing routines that operate on the document in response to reference links embedded within the document, comprising:

a processing link identifier that identifies a document containing at least one processing link to the to external processing code;

an invoker that invokes a processing engine to modify said document;

wherein said processing engine modifies said document using said external processing code.

17.   The system of claim 16, wherein said invoker uses a data list to invoke said processing engine.

18.   The system of claim 17, wherein said invoker further comprises:

a validator that validates said processing link.

19.   The system of claim 18, wherein said validator further comprises:

a local directory lookup that accesses a local directory to create said data list for said processing link; and

a global directory lookup that accesses a global directory to create said data list for said processing link if said data list for said processing link is not located in said local directory.

20.   The system of claim 19, wherein said global directory lookup further comprises:

a data list generator that copies said data list for said processing link from said global directory to said local directory if said global directory is used to create said data list.